

I/WE CLAIM

1. A cooking appliance comprising:
 - an oven cavity including top, bottom, rear and side walls that collectively define a cooking chamber;
 - a door movably mounted relative to the oven cavity for selectively sealing the cooking chamber;
 - at least one heat source positioned to selectively direct heat into the cooking chamber to perform a cooking operation; and
 - a control system selectively operable in each of a standard mode and a no preheat mode wherein, upon initiation of the no preheat mode, said control system activates the at least one heat source at a maximum heat output for a first predetermined period and at a varying heat output through a plurality of stages for a second time period.
2. The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of stages are based upon total energy available in the oven cavity based on a relationship of $A/B \cong 1270 \text{ Watts/ft}^3$, wherein **A** is a required minimum total wattage of the at least one heat source and **B** is a volume of the oven cavity.
3. The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein said at least one heat source comprises a plurality of heat sources, said plurality of heat sources including a radiant heat source, a convection heat source and microwave heat source.

4. The cooking appliance according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the plurality of heat sources is activated during each of the plurality of stages.
5. The cooking appliance according to claim 4, wherein at least two of the plurality of heat sources are activated during a majority of the plurality of stages.
6. The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the at least one heat source includes an upper heating element and a lower heating element.
7. The cooking appliance according to claim 6, wherein both the upper and lower heating elements are simultaneously activated during at least one of the plurality of stages.
8. The cooking appliance according to claim 6, wherein only one of the upper and lower heating elements is activated during at least one of the plurality of stages.
9. The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein a total number of the plurality of stages is dependent upon a volume of the cooking chamber.
10. The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein a heat output of the at least one heat source is at least 1270 watts per cubic foot of cooking chamber volume.

11. The cooking appliance according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of stages constitutes three distinct stages.

12. A cooking appliance incorporating a no preheat cooking mode comprising:

an oven cavity;

at least one heat source disposed to direct heat into said oven cavity;

a control panel including a plurality of input members for programming at least time and temperature parameters for a cooking operation within the oven cavity and for selectively establishing a no preheat cooking mode for the cooking appliance; and

means for controlling said at least one heat source in accordance with a no preheat cooking sequence upon establishing the no preheat cooking mode, said controlling means being adapted to activate the at least one heat source at a maximum heat output for a first predetermined time period and at a varying heat output through a plurality of stages for a second time period, with said first and second time periods being collectively equal to the programmed time parameter.

13. The cooking appliance according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of input members includes a selector member dedicated for use in establishing the no preheat cooking mode.

14. The cooking appliance according to claim 13, wherein the controlling means completes the cooking operation in the programmed time parameter during the no preheat mode.

15. The cooking appliance according to claim 12, wherein said controlling means selectively operates said at least one heat source during at least a portion of each of the plurality of stages.

16. The cooking appliance according to claim 15, further comprising: a plurality of heat sources, said controlling means selectively operating each of the plurality of heat sources during the first time period.

17. The cooking appliance according to claim 16, wherein the controlling means operates at least two of the plurality of heat sources during a majority of the plurality of stages.

18. The cooking appliance according to claim 15, wherein the at least one heat source includes an upper heating element and a lower heating element.

19. The cooking appliance according to claim 18, wherein both the upper and lower heating elements are simultaneously activated during at least one of the plurality of stages.

20. The cooking appliance according to claim 18, wherein only one of the upper and lower heating elements is activated during at least one of the plurality of stages.

21. The cooking appliance according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of stages constitutes three distinct stages.

22. In a cooking appliance including an oven cavity, a plurality of heat sources positioned to direct heat into said oven cavity, and a control panel having a plurality of input members for programming time and temperature parameters for a cooking operation within the oven cavity, a method of performing the cooking operation without preheating the oven cavity comprising:

A) setting a time parameter for a cooking operation, with the time parameter being based upon the cooking operation being performed with preheating of the oven cavity;

B) activating multiple ones of the plurality of heat sources at maximum heat outputs for a first time period of the cooking operation;

C) operating the cooking appliance through a plurality of managed heat generation stages for a second time period of the cooking operation, while individually controlling the plurality of heat sources; and

D) completing a cooking operation in the programmed time parameter without initially preheating the cooking appliance.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising: establishing a total number of the plurality of stages based upon a volume of the oven cavity.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising: selecting the cooking operation without preheating of the oven cavity through a dedicated no preheat selector member provided on the control panel.

25. The method of claim 22, further comprising: operating a plurality of heat sources during a majority of the plurality of stages, said plurality of heat sources including a radiant heat source, a microwave heat source and a convection heat source.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising: operating at least two of the plurality of heat sources during at least one of the plurality of stages.